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SHOULD GET YOUR AUTOGRAPH, BIDEN TELLS MODI, PRAISING HIS POPULARITY

The US president says he's getting many requests from prominent Americans to meet the Indian prime minister during his upcoming US visit

'HAVE RUN OUT OF TICKETS FOR MODI EVENT'

US President Joe Biden is set to host Prime Minister Narendra Modi for a state dinner at the White House on June 22. "Next month, we have a dinner for you in Washington. Everyone in the whole country wants to come. I have run out of tickets," Biden told Modi during the Quad meeting in Hiroshima, joking: "You have caused me a real problem"

QUAD CALLS FOR PEACE IN INDO-PACIFIC

- Australian prime minister said he's also getting several requests from people wanting to attend a Modi event in Sydney this Tuesday
- During the Quad meeting, member countries called for "peace and stability" in the Indo-Pacific in a thinly-veiled attack on China over its aggressive tactics, and a peaceful resolution of the Ukraine

May 23
WHEN MODI WILL ARRIVE IN AUSTRALIA FOR A TWO-DAY VISIT

CHENNAI • MADURAI • VIJAYAWADA • BENGALURU • KOCHI • HYDERABAD • VISAKHAPATNAM • COIMBATORE • KOZHIKODE • THIRUVANANTHAPURAM • BELAGAVI • BHUBANESWAR • SHIVAMOGGA • MANGALURU • TIRUPATI • TIRUCHY • TIRUNELVELI • SAMBALPUR • HUBBALLI • DHARMAPURI • KOTTAYAM • KANNUR • VILLUPURAM • KOLLAM • TADEPALLIGUDEM • NAGAPATTINAM • THRISSUR • KALABURAGI

Rescuers pull out the SUV that was stranded in the waterlogged underpass near KR Circle after a heavy rainfall in Bengaluru on Sunday (left). Chief Minister Siddaramaiah visits the underpass where a 22-year-old woman lost her life | EXPRESS

Woman dies in flooded B'luru underpass

Infosys employee, 6 relatives were out on a city tour in taxi; 24mm rain pounds city

AKNISREE KARTHIK
@ Bengaluru

A 22-year-old woman, working with Infosys in Bengaluru, died after an SUV in which she was travelling along with six of her relatives got stuck in the flooded KR Circle underpass, less than a kilometre away from the state's seat of power – Vidhana Soudha -- in Bengaluru on Sunday.

The deceased, Battula Bhanurekha, and her relatives had hired a taxi and were out sightseeing when their taxi got stranded in the flooded underpass. Her relatives had come to the city on Friday and wanted to spend the weekend with her.

The underpass, which connects Dr Ambedkar Road with Nrupatunga Road, started flooding rapidly as the city received 24 mm rain within one hour on Sunday afternoon. The taxi driver, who was passing through the underpass around 3.45 pm, failed to gauge the depth of water and tried to speed through it. But the vehicle got stranded midway with six passengers, including Bhanurekha, stuck inside. As the water level started rising quickly, the stranded passengers were unable to come out of the vehicle, and they started screaming for help.

A reporter with a private Kannada TV channel, who heard their cries, immediately alerted the police and also sought help from people around. Some jumped in, helped the passengers come out of the car and made them stand on top of the vehicle. Some women also gave their sarees to the people involved in the rescue operation.

Among initial rescuers was Mahesha P, a head constable with the Karnataka State Industrial Security Force. He stopped his police jeep and dove into the water to help the stranded. He told *The New Indian Express* that the doors of the SUV were jammed and could not be opened. He and other citizen-rescuers helped all the six passengers and the driver out. But it took longer to pull out Bhanurekha as they had to break the windshield, he said.

CONTINUED ON: P2

LIGHTNING KILLS BOY IN KOPPAL

Koppal: A 16-year-old boy from Shivapur village in Koppal died after being hit by lightning bolt on Sunday evening. The police said the deceased, Srikanth Doddagoudar, had come to the village to attend a marriage. When it started raining, he took shelter under a tree. When lightning struck the tree, he collapsed. He was rushed to a hospital, where he was declared brought dead.

NIA arrests JeM operative ahead of G20 meet in J&K

FAYAZ WANI @Srinagar

IN a major breakthrough, a day before the G20 tourism meeting in Srinagar, the NIA on Sunday arrested a Jaish-e-Mohammad operative who was sharing sensitive information about the movement of troops with his Pakistani handlers.

According to an NIA spokesman, the agency's sleuths arrested Jaish operative Mohammad Ubaid Malik of Kupwara for his involvement in the terror-related conspiracy.

"He was in constant touch with a Pakistan based-JeM Commander. Investigations revealed that he was passing on secret information, especially regarding the movement of security forces to the Pak-based commander. Incriminating documents show his involvement in furtherance of terror activities in J&K has been recovered from him," he said.

The arrest came hours ahead of the start of G20 tourism working group meeting in Srinagar on Monday. The third G20 tourism working group meeting under India's presidency is being held in Srinagar between May 22 and 24 at Sheri-Kashmir International Conference Centre on the banks of Dal Lake in Srinagar.

Indian paramilitary troopers patrol Dal Lake on Sunday in Srinagar | PTI

About 200 guests, including foreign delegates and select Indian officials, would stay at Taj Vivanta and Lalit Grand Palace hotels on the banks of Dal Lake. The delegates are expected to visit the Mughal gardens, botanical garden, Royal Springs Golf Course and Polo View for sightseeing. They would also enjoy a Shikara ride.

However, planned visits by delegates to the world-famous ski resort of Gulmarg and Dachigam National Park have been cancelled on account of security concerns. Police had in April arrested an overground worker of Jaish Farooq Ahmad Wani, who was working in a five-star hotel in Srinagar as a driver. The officials, however, attributed the dropping of venues to the busy schedule of the delegates.

Heavy security arrangements have been put in place for the G20 event, including the deployment of anti-drone systems. It will be the first major international event in J&K after the dilution of Article 370.

The road from the airport to the G20 venue has been spruced up for the big event.

NO VIP CULTURE

Don't stop traffic for me: Siddu tells cops

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Bengaluru

A day after swearing-in as chief minister, Siddaramaiah on Sunday announced that he will not opt for zero-traffic for the movement of his vehicles in Bengaluru.

He has asked Bengaluru City Police Commissioner Pratap Reddy not to stop traffic completely to allow his convoy to move. "I have taken the decision after seeing the problems faced by the people travelling along the stretch where there are restrictions due to zero traffic," he tweeted. It was widely appreciated by netizens.

The zero-traffic facility is given to VIPs, including the chief minister, where the traffic police stop all other vehicles from taking the route the VIP would be travelling in.

Siddaramaiah also tweeted, "I have decided not to accept flowers or shawls from people who often give it as a mark of respect. This is during both personal and public events. People can give books if they want to express their love and respect in the form of gifts. May all your love and affection continue to be on me."

Gill puts a dagger through Bangalore hearts

Opener produces an incandescent innings to dump Bangalore out of the Indian Premier League (IPL) after Virat Kohli's own ton lit the stage. A look...

Shubman Gill is ecstatic after his unbeaten 100 took the Gujarat Titans past Bangalore on Sunday | SPORTZPICS

PRINCE AND KING LIGHT UP CHINNASWAMY

After the heavens stopped, a heavenly Virat Kohli and Shubman Gill treated the crowd to an exhibition of white-ball batting. After Kohli, who was the one-man band as far as the Bangalore batting was concerned, scored a second consecutive 100, Gill, if anything, matched his India senior stroke for stroke. Chasing 198 on another batting track, Gujarat ran into choppy waters before Gill took over control in the back-end of the second innings to hit his first 100 of the season. P13

QUALIFIER AND ELIMINATOR

QUALIFIER 1: May 23 Chennai VS Gujarat at Chennai

ELIMINATOR: May 24 Lucknow VS Mumbai at Chennai

THE LOSER OF QUALIFIER 1 WILL FACE WINNER OF ELIMINATOR IN QUALIFIER 2 ON MAY 26 AT AHMEDABAD

GREEN SYMPHONY

One of the most expensive players in the history of the league, it's fair to say Cam Green has promised without delivering in a big way. He changed that on Sunday with a thrill-a-minute 100 that helped them overhaul a target of 201 with two overs to spare. He was helped ably by the uncapped Akash Madhwal whose 4/37 put the skids on the Hyderabad scoring.

WILL DEFEAT ORDINANCE IN 2024 SEMI-FINAL: KEJRIWAL

PREETHA NAIR @New Delhi

THE row over the Centre's ordinance to bypass a Supreme Court order that gave the Arvind Kejriwal-led AAP government in Delhi control over bureaucrats seems headed for a political show of strength. On Sunday, JD(U) leader and Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar called on the AAP leader to extend support in his fight against the Centre on the issue.

"How can the Centre take away the state's rights, which were given by the SC? We will unite as many Opposition parties as possible and run a nationwide campaign against the ordinance," Nitish said.

RJD leader and Bihar deputy CM Tejashwi Yadav was also present at the meeting, held at Kejriwal's residence.

The development comes a day after the big show of Opposition unity at the swearing-in ceremony of the new Congress government Karnataka.

Having secured Nitish's support, Kejriwal will now meet other Opposition leaders such as West Bengal CM Mamata Banerjee on May 23, Sena leader Uddhav Thackeray on May 24 and NCP supremo Sharad Pawar on May 25.

Bihar CM Nitish Kumar calls on his Delhi counterpart Arvind Kejriwal on Sunday | PTI

Pawar says K'taka results show situation changing

Mumbai: The Nationalist Congress Party leader Sharad Pawar on Sunday said the results of the Karnataka Assembly elections show the situation is gradually changing. The veteran leader said if the working class remains strong and united, what was seen in the Karnataka Assembly polls can be replicated elsewhere

Kejriwal said the ordinance can be defeated in the Rajya Sabha if all Opposition parties vote against it. "If it is defeated, it will be a semi-final of the 2024 elections. A message will be sent out to the country that BJP will not be able to return in 2024," he said.

The AAP government and the Centre are locked in a fight for control of Delhi's administrative services. The Centre had promulgated the ordinance on Friday to create a National Capital Civil Service Authority for the transfer and posting of bureaucrats in Delhi.

While several opposition parties have termed the ordinance an attack on the federal structure of the country, Nitish, who spearheads the Opposition unity project, said he will try to unite all parties against the Centre's move to curtail the power of states.

When asked if the Congress will join the campaign against the ordinance, Kumar said he will speak to the grand old party's leadership on the issue.

EXPRESS READ

Modi, Sunak review bilateral strategic ties

HIROSHIMA: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday held productive talks with his British counterpart Rishi Sunak during which they reviewed the bilateral strategic partnership, including progress in India-UK FTA negotiations. The two leaders also agreed to deepen bilateral cooperation.

Baby food brands break marketing rules: Report

NEW DELHI: At least 15 infant food brands in India are using social media and influencers to promote products like infant milk substitutes in violation of Infant Milk Substitute Act, which bans all forms of promotion of foods for infants under age of 24 months, a child welfare NGO alleged in a report on Sunday | P9

Prez, not PM, must open new Parl building: Rahul

NEW DELHI: Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Sunday said the President should inaugurate the new Parliament building and not the Prime Minister. PM Narendra Modi will inaugurate the new Parliament on May 28. Senior Congress leader Anand Sharma and some other opposition leaders were also of the same view.

DESTINATION MOON

Mid-July launch date for ISRO's Chandrayaan-3 lunar mission

DONNA EVA @Bengaluru

THE Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) has announced that it is aiming to launch its Chandrayaan-3 spacecraft in the middle of July, likely on July 12.

The Chandrayaan-3 is the third planned launch in the Chandrayaan space programme. It's a follow-up to the launch of the Chandrayaan-2 in 2019, which consisted of a lunar orbiter, a soft lander and a rover.

However, during the Chandrayaan-2 mission, the soft lander had failed, which was attributed to a software glitch. The Chandrayaan-3 will be another attempt at demonstrating the capabilities of the soft lander, rover and a propulsion module.

According to ISRO officials, the mission launch date is likely July 12, with the Chandrayaan-3 spacecraft attempting a soft landing near the lunar south pole on August 23. The spacecraft will also be competing with the Russian-made Luna 25, which has a launch date of July 13.

Currently, preparations are on for the launch of the Chandrayaan-3. It completed all necessary testing as of March this year. The Chandrayaan-3 spacecraft has been equipped to collect samples of the lunar surface as well as readings on seismic activity, the lunar environment and elemental compositions, near the landing site. Interestingly, while the Chandrayaan-2 was equipped with an orbiter, lander and rover, the third mission will have a lander, rover and propulsion module. According to ISRO officials, the propulsion module will also act as a communications relay satellite.

The mission is aimed at demonstrating ISRO's capabilities in landing a spacecraft on the Moon, specifically for a collaboration with Japan in the proposed Lunar Polar Exploration Mission. The two countries will work on collecting, sampling and analysing lunar materials. The Lunar Polar Exploration Mission, or Chandrayaan-4, is expected to be launched by 2025, where the proposed lunar lander and rover will try to explore the south pole of the Moon.

The Chandrayaan, or Indian Lunar Exploration, programme was conceived of in 2003 and was announced by the then Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee.

COMPETITION WITH RUSSIA

Chandrayaan-3 spacecraft has completed all necessary tests as of March this year. The spacecraft will be competing with Russia's Luna 25, which has a launch date of July 13

INS Vikrant makes first docking at Kadamba

SUBHASH CHANDRA N S @Karwar

THE India's first Indigenous Aircraft Carrier – INS Vikrant -- that arrived in Karwar was successfully berthed at the newly constructed Aircraft Carrier Pier at Kadamba Naval Base on Sunday.

The Navy's official Twitter handle hailed it as a landmark in enhancing ship-berthing capacity at the Karwar base.

The arrival of INS Vikrant here was speculated way back in 2020, even before the aircraft carrier began its sea trials. INS Vikrant was built at Cochin Shipyard Limited (CSL) at Kochi in Kerala, and has a displacement of 40,000 tonnes. It is 262 metre long with a 62 metre beam.

INS Vikrant after it docks in Karwar

The latest INS Vikrant, which was planned in 1997, is a tribute to India's first aircraft carrier INS Vikrant, which was retired the same year. P4